



**August A. Busch** Memorial Conservation Area  
**Powder Valley** Conservation Nature Center  
**Rockwoods** Reservation



# *Making Tracks*

July 2002 Volume 02, Number 07

**A**re you ready for some fun this summer? Make this summer one to remember for years to come. Your family can take part in the opportunities available at St. Louis area Missouri Department of Conservation Nature Centers, trails, ranges, fishing accesses and conservation areas. So if you start to hear the tired, old refrain of, "I'm bored... there's nothing to do," pack 'em up and head 'em out to an MDC area. It's close, it's free and it's fun!

## Places to Go


*by Holly Berthold,  
Metro Media Specialist*

Many people know about our nature centers. Kirkwood's Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is one popular venue, and for good reasons. Miles of hiking trails through the woods are easily navigated and a pleasure to behold. The nature center itself features educational and entertaining displays for kids and adults. Rockwoods Reservation in Glencoe is another St. Louis treasure that boasts loads of trails and an educational center on forestry and wildlife. A great afternoon spot for a picnic and hike, then a visit to the nature center will cure those boredom blues. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles has an excellent auto tour that winds past 30+ fishing lakes! Be sure to stop by the visitors center to see the fantastic displays which educate visitors on the fish, forest and wildlife of the area.

For a change of pace, you might venture to one of the two area shooting ranges. The ranges teach safe, ethical and fun shooting sports. Located at Busch Conservation Area, on Highway D in St. Charles, and Henges Range on Antire Road in St. Louis County, the ranges offer target practice and safety courses all summer long. You can contact the ranges by calling (636) 441-4554 for Busch Shooting Range or (636) 938-9548 for Henges Shooting Range.



Urban and suburban anglers will really enjoy great fishing this summer. As I write this, our fisheries biologists are out stocking area lakes with catfish, trout, bass and bluegill. Have you purchased your 2002 fishing permit? Fishing rod cleaned and ready? Got your bait? Let's go! You say you don't know where you can fish in the St. Louis area? Visit [www.conservation.state.mo.us/documents/areas/stlouis/fish/fishstl](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/documents/areas/stlouis/fish/fishstl) for a complete listing of fishing sites.

So if you have had enough of Nickelodeon reruns, lemonade stands and shopping malls, let's get down to some serious fun! Did I mention the natural glade areas? How about the Hilda Young Conservation Area? Oooh! How about Kennedy Forest in Forest Park, with some of the oldest living trees in the area? How about classes on butterfly gardening? The Green Center in University City? St. Stanislaus Island! The Teacher Resource Center in Soulard? Wait! Wait! There's lots more....oh, just log onto [www.conservation.state.mo.us](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us) and follow the prompts. Have a great summer. There's LOTS to do! 

**Columbia Bottom Conservation Area will be closed to all public use beginning on June 3, 2002.**

This closure is due to construction of new public access and wetland management facilities. Two large-scale construction projects will take place on the area beginning in June and lasting for up to a year. We hope to re-open the area early in 2003.

*For more information contact the St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554.*

News from  
**Powder Valley** Conservation  
 Nature Center

Friday Night Live  
**CELEBRATE INTERDEPENDENCE DAY!**

July 12, 2002  
 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

*"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find out that everything is hitched to everything else."*  
 --Naturalist John Muir

Find out how and why things are hitched together at Friday Night Live's Interdependence Day celebration. We'll explore this topic in a carnival-type atmosphere. Visit our "midway" where we'll have games, sack races, crafts and booths to help you learn about predators, prey, food chains, food webs, habitats, populations and more! "Park" yourself at our outdoor movie theater and watch some related flicks. "Picnic" on popcorn and other snacks. There is no charge for this event. No reservations are necessary. You'll be shuttled to Powder Valley after parking at nearby Emmenegger Nature Park. This event has a rain plan. Call (314) 301-1500 for more information.

*Declare your interdependence!*



**Resident Artisan**  
**Rock Painting with Lin Wellford**  
 Demonstration in the Lobby  
 July 20, 2002  
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Powder Valley welcomes the return of nationally known author and artist Lin Wellford. Lin will be demonstrating the marvelous art of rock painting. Lin's newest book, *Painting on Rocks for Kids*, as well as some of her other books, will be available for purchase in our gift shop. If you are a Lin Wellford fan or someone who just wants to know more about rock painting, don't miss Lin's rock painting demonstration at Powder Valley.

## Wildflowers in Bloom

by Catherine McGrane, Naturalist

As the temperatures rise in July, many of the wildflowers we have enjoyed fade along with the memories of cool spring evenings. Gone are the mayapples, wild geraniums and wild sweet William. Fall breezes filled with the sound of dry leaves underfoot are still far away. Take heart, however, because even in the heat of summer many wildflowers will soon bloom in our area.

Although the columbine in the wooded areas will no longer be blooming by the end of July, one can find many other wildflowers blooming on the slopes, in the ravines and along the forest floor. Ohio horsemint and thimbleweed will bloom through August. White snakeroot, blooming until October, is a member of the aster family. Yellow ironweed, common in low, moist woods, will be blooming from August to October. False foxglove, a member of the snapdragon family, will also be blooming from August to October.

The glades and drier habitats of our area will also be alive with many flowering wildflowers. July will mark the end of blooming

for the Indian paintbrush and the glade coneflower. The light, tissue-like flowers of the Missouri evening primrose may be found on the glades into August. The butterfly weed will still be blooming in September and black-eyed Susans can be found in October. Depending on the species, blazing star may bloom as late as November.

Even hot, dry roadsides, waste areas and fields will be decorated with wildflower blossoms. Venus' looking glass and dogbane begin blooming in spring and will continue to have blossoms until August. The perennial pea may bloom through September along with the tall tickseed and the prairie dock. The yellow partridge pea and the yellow evening primrose may still be blooming in October. One of the late bloomers is the common sunflower, which will bloom into November.

Come check out the blooming wildflowers at Powder Valley. When you come to visit, stop at the front desk and ask for a list of plants at Powder Valley. Hope to see you soon.



**11715 Cragwold Road**  
**Kirkwood, MO 63122**  
**(314) 301 - 1500**

### LOCATION:

From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

### AREA HOURS:

Daylight Saving Time:  
 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Central Standard Time:  
 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week,  
 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week,  
 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.

News from

# Rockwoods Reservation

## A Pickin' We Will Go


by Keri Lanning, Naturalist

**G**rab a basket, some bug spray and head towards the woods, because this should be a great summer for our favorite wild edible fruits!! Remember how much rain we had this spring? Although it may have wreaked havoc on our weekend plans, all that rain created ideal conditions for plants to produce plump and juicy fruits. If you've wanted to try wild edible fruits and some new recipes, now is the time. Here are some pointers for you first-timers and maybe at that next cookout you can wow your friends and neighbors with some delicious new pies, jams and jellies.

In July, blackberries should be prime for the pickin.' This three-leafed plant grows like a vine and is part of the rose family, so beware of the thorns. You can find blackberries growing along fencerows, roadsides, pastures, meadows and open areas. This happens to be the same habitat as our friends, the chiggers and briars. Long-sleeved shirts, pants and a good dose of bug spray are recommended. Once you have collected your blackberries it is a good idea to

change out of your pants and rub your legs with a towel to knock off any chiggers and greatly reduce your number of bites. Blackberries are ripe when they have changed from red to black.

Keep your eye out for gooseberries this month as well. This plant is similar to blackberry but has simple, palmate leaves and also has spines along its stem. You can find gooseberry in rocky or open dry woods. The same dress code and need for bug spray apply to gooseberry picking as well. The only difference is this plant shares its habitat with ticks instead of chiggers. Gooseberries turn red or purplish when ripe (you can eat them when they are green but they tend to be sour).

Mayapples produce a fruit that can add a unique flavor to your summer treats. This tall plant has one large palmate leaf and only the double-stalked plants produce fruit. Known as the wild lemon, mayapple fruit blends in well to the forest floor and is a find for both wildlife and humans alike. Please keep in mind that only the fruit of this plant is edible, all other parts are poisonous. Have fun picking berries this season. 



### RECIPES

#### Pies

Wash fruit and almost fill a pie shell  
Add sugar, a couple pats of butter, and a sprinkle of flour  
Top with pie crust  
Place on cookie sheet in case of overflow  
Bake at 350 degrees for almost an hour

#### Jellies

Add an inch of blackberries to large saucepan, cover with water.  
Boil slowly for about 10 minutes and drain liquid.  
For every four cups of juice add one cup of pectin.  
Heat again. When the juice starts to boil add equal cups of sugar to cups of juice.  
Heat until mixture thickens and pour into sterilized jars.  
\*\* For a good mayapple jelly try adding mint

#### Jams

Heat berries like when making jelly, but then add berries and liquid to a cauldron and remove as much pulp as possible.  
Return pulp and juice to the saucepan and heat until thickened.  
\*\*It will take longer to thicken because there is no pectin.

(Recipes taken from Jan Phillips, *Wild Edibles of Missouri*)

**2751 Glencoe Road  
Wildwood, MO 63038  
(636) 458 - 2236**

#### LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Highway 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

From Manchester Road, take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

#### AREA HOURS:

Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

#### VISITOR CENTER HOURS:

Open seven days a week during the months of March, April, May, June, September and October, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Visitor Center will be closed on weekends during the months of July, August, November, December, January and February.

#### ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public including:

- \*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
- \*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
- \*Three picnic areas (all with charcoal grills) two with drinking water, tables, and one with toilets.
- \*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.

*Effective July 1, 2002, Rockwoods Reservation will close its Education Center building on weekends during the months of July and August, and November through February. The area itself, including the picnic areas, trails and comfort station/restrooms will remain open seven days a week, year round. The Education Center will be open seven days a week during all other months. Staff will continue to serve you by providing programs on a year-round basis.*



# How to register for a JULY Program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advance notice.

## ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

### Become a young Rockwoods Ranger by attending our Theme Weeks!

Throughout this month Rockwoods is offering Theme Weeks! Three 90 minute programs will be given followed by a 30 minute comprehensive trivia game on Friday. Students that attend all three programs will be awarded certificates of completion and will be added to our Rockwoods Rangers list!

### “ology” Week

(Ages 7-12) Become a certified junior biologist in all these fields of study!! Learn how to become an effective biologist by learning how to study these animals and how to find them.

- 22 Ornithology** 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Learn how to identify common Missouri birds by sight and sound! If you have binoculars please bring them.
- 24 Entomology** 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.  
Explore the vast world of insects! Learn 8 different families of insects in Missouri, then collect insects on the area and identify them down to family!

- 26 Mammalogy** 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
Discover Missouri mammals. We will learn where to look for these mammals, how to track them and practice our tracking at Rockwoods.

(Reservations begin July 8.)

### “ology” Around the House Week

(Ages 7-12) Become a certified junior biologist in the studies of plants and animals that live in and around your home. It's always nice to know who we are sharing our homes with.

- 29 Malacology** 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

## BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

### 10 Little Stinkers

*Wednesday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Ages 3-6) Come sniff out the real facts about skunks. A good sense of smell is not required! (Reservations begin June 26.)



### 16 Stream Study

*Tuesday* 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Ages 7-12) Did you know that some critters live on top of the water, others live in the water, and still others live under rocks in the water? They all work together to keep our streams clean and healthy. Bring your water shoes and a towel and join us for a cool stream experience. (Reservations begin July 2.)

### 17 Spider Sniffing!

*Wednesday* 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
(All Ages) You've never been spider sniffing? Well, here's your chance! Come join us as we uncover the mystery behind spiders and their kin. Please bring a flashlight. A love of spiders is not required. (Reservations begin July 3.)

### 18 Wildflower Hike

*Thursday* 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
(All Ages) What better way to enjoy a summer evening than to take time to stop and smell the flowers! Join us for a short hike to discover what is in bloom this time of year. Bring a wildflower guide if you have one. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended. (Reservations begin July 3.)

### 20 Wild Jellies

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
(Adults) Learn how to turn fruits, berries and flowers (yes flowers) into delicious jellies. See firsthand a batch of

## POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

### 5 Hiking Beautiful Broken Ridge

*Friday* 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
(Adults) Join a volunteer naturalist to see what wildflowers, trees and birds we might find. (Reservations begin June 21.)

### 6&20 Identification of Common Trees

*Saturday* 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
(Adults) We walk a trail, identify our common trees and discuss their uses. (Reservations begin June 21 & July 5, respectively.)



### 12 Hiking Wonderful

#### Hickory Ridge

*Friday* 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
(Adults) Join a volunteer naturalist to see what wildflowers, trees and birds we might find. (Reservations begin June 28.)

### 17 HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

*Wednesday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Incredible Invertebrates:** (Ages 3-6) Experience the incredible world of invertebrates through song, craft and hands-on exploration. (Reservations begin July 3.)  
**Invertebrate Investigators:** (Ages 7-12) Crunchy, gooey, creepy, crawly - discover the amazing world of invertebrates. (Reservations begin July 3.)

### 19 Lewis & Clark Encounters:

#### Animals



*Friday* 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
(Ages 7-12) Investigate animals as Lewis and

This is the study of mollusks! Have you ever wondered how they make their shell or whether or not they are important to us? Find out the answers to these questions and what mollusks we share our homes with!

31

**Myrmecology** 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Get your dictionary out for this word! This is the study of a common insect of Missouri. One that probably lives in your own backyard. Come to the program with the definition of this word and earn a prize!

2

**Mycology** 10:00 a.m. - Noon  
We will be investigating fungus! Try growing some fungus at home (old food from the fridge is always good) and bring it to class. We will be exploring Rockwoods looking for different fungi.

(Reservations begin July 15.)

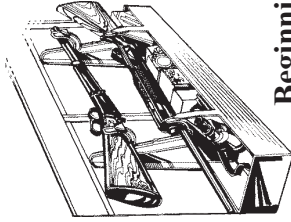
### Busch Shooting Range

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

### Women's Firearms Training

July 13 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The class discusses firearms safety, types, handling, ammunition, loading-unloading-clearing, marksmanship, care, cleaning and storage. Ladies must be 18 years of age or older or attend with a female parent/guardian. Participants are requested to bring a sack lunch.



### Beginning Trap and Skeet

July 27 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

You may bring your own shotgun with 2 boxes (50 rounds) of target ammunition, shot size 7 1/2, 8 or 9 or for individuals without a shotgun, a 20 gauge shotgun will be provided for you. Individuals using our shotgun must bring 2 boxes (50 rounds) of 20 gauge factory loaded 2 3/4 inch target ammunition, shot size 7 1/2, 8 or 9 (no reloads). Participants must be 18 years of age or older, youths 11-17 may attend with a parent or guardian.

20

Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

(Adults) Discover the Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area and the herons and egrets that visit this wetland area during the summer. Take a 2.5 mile hike around the wetlands to watch the birds feed in the marsh. Binoculars are a must for this program and field guides are helpful. (Reservations begin July 5.)



21

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Teach a kid to fish and you've given him a hobby for a lifetime! Kids will learn how to set up a fishing pole, bait the hook, cast a line and catch fish. Equipment and bait are provided. (Reservations begin July 5.)

23

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 3-6) Did you know that ladybugs are lucky? Find out why, and learn something about the life of a ladybug as we explore these fun insects! (Reservation begin July 9.)

24

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) Mosquitoes, and Dragonflies, and Ladybugs, OH MY! What makes a "bug" a "good bug" or a "pest?" This month we'll read about creepy, crawly critters. (Reservation begin July 10.)



Clark did. Describe and draw some of the animals they journaled about. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin July 5.)

20 Plants for Little Sprouts

Saturday 10:30 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 3-6) Have fun learning about plants, making a craft and planting your own flower seed. Enjoy a flower hunt hike. (Reservations begin July 5.)

20

Slithering Snakes

Saturday 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Ages 8 & up) Is it venomous? Chances are it's not. Learn how to identify snakes in the Missouri outdoors. (Reservations begin July 5.)



### Jay Henges Shooting Range

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

### Clay Target Shooting

July 10 & 17 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Lesson plan includes shotgun safety, shotgun nomenclature, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, live firing exercise, shotgun maintenance and storage. You may bring your own shotgun, ammunition (trap loads 8 shot/2 boxes), eye and ear protection or this equipment will be provided.

### Family Range Day

July 13 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Missouri Department of Conservation invites your family to the Jay Henges Range. Youths 18 and under shoot free! You will have to provide your own firearm, ammunition, eye and ear protection. No reservations necessary.

### A.S.K. For Hunters Youth Day Camp


July 29 - August 2 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Youths must be Hunter Education certified to participate. This advanced Hunter Education course includes live firing exercises with .22 cal. & .243 cal. rifles, 20 gauge shotguns, black powder rifles and archery. Presentations consist of MO Wildlife Regulations, wildlife identification, wildlife needs and preferences, wildlife management techniques and hunting strategies. This is a great way for youths to expand their hunting Attitude, Skill and Knowledge! This is for ages 11-15 and requires a \$50 advanced registration fee.

News from **August A. Busch** Memorial Conservation Area

## Blackberries!

by Kathy Thiele, Naturalist

**HOORAY!** The blackberries will be ripe any day now. Just like domestic blackberries, wild blackberries can be used in pies, cobblers, dessert toppings, jellies, or just eaten plain. Sometimes while I'm picking they go directly into the mouth (one for me, one for the bowl). Look for blackberry canes in old fields that haven't been mowed or plowed in a few years. The weeds are likely to be tall and poison ivy is a definite possibility. You should also expect ticks, chiggers and thorns, so be prepared. Most MDC areas, including Busch, allow berry picking. Many farmers will also allow you to pick on their property if you ask permission and give them a portion of the fresh berries or some of the final product. A blackberry pie can go a long way to cement a relationship with a local farmer. OK, so you've found a spot to pick, you get on your briar-proof clothing, forge through the tallest weeds, battle the biggest thorns, come down with a case of poison ivy, and only end up with enough berries to cover the bottom of your pie plate. **FEAR NOT!** For you still have enough to make blackberry custard pie. 

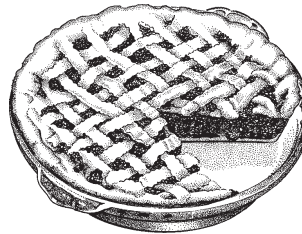
### Blackberry Custard Pie

#### Ingredients:

1- 9 inch pie crust, baked for 10 minutes  
Blackberries  
3 T flour  
3 T sugar  
Cinnamon

#### For custard:

2 eggs  
1/3 cup sugar  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 tsp vanilla  
1/8 tsp nutmeg  
1 & 1/3 cup milk



Heat oven to 450 degrees. Prepare pastry. Beat eggs slightly with rotary beater. Beat in 1/3 cup sugar, salt, nutmeg, milk and vanilla. Spread a layer of blackberries on the bottom of the pie crust. Sprinkle with flour and 3 T sugar. Pour custard over berries. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake for 20 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees. Bake 15 - 20 minutes longer or until a knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean.

## A Rough Night Camping

by Rhonda Anderson,  
Interpretive Programs Supervisor

One of my favorite pastimes is camping. It's great to get away and spend time with your family. The activities you can participate in are endless: canoeing, hiking, biking, fishing, sightseeing or just relaxing.

Camping can have its downside though. I once worked at a park where some campers came up to the office one morning, very blurry eyed, to complain about all the noise in the campground the previous night. When asked which campsite was making all the noise, they replied "It wasn't a site, it was those darn owls! Can't you do something to make them shut up?" As funny as this may sound, it is a true story and a complaint I have heard many times. (I wonder how many times the animals would like to complain about being awakened by loud radios and voices!) Unfortunately, people will get little sympathy from me, I open my windows at night just so I can hear all those wonderful night sounds!!

Sometimes we just need to know what we are hearing in order to appreciate the sounds a little more. Here are some of the animals, and the sounds they make, that you might hear when you spend a night in the woods:


#### Night Birds:

Chuck-wills-widow - *chuck-will'-wid'-ow*  
Whip-poor-will - *whip' poor-weel'*  
Common Nighthawk - *pity-pit-pit*  
Great Horned Owl - *hoo, hoo-oo, hoo, hoo*  
Barred Owl - *who cooks for you, who cooks for yall*  
Screech Owl - *whinny (like a horse)*

#### Frogs:

Blanchard's Cricket Frog - *two marbles clicking together*  
Green Frog - *broken banjo string*  
Bullfrog - *jug-o-rum, jug-o-rum*

#### Others:

Coyotes - *series of high pitched yips and howls*  
Raccoons, opossum, skunks - *something rummaging through your camping gear, especially the food!* 

**2360 Highway D  
St. Charles, MO  
63304  
(636) 441 - 4554**

#### LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile.

From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

#### HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours.

Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

#### ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits, demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.

*Next time you go camping and are awake in the night, instead of dwelling on the "noise," think of it as nature's lullaby.  
Sweet dreams!*





## The Educators' Niche

by Liz Lyons, Conservation Education Consultant

# Home School Special

## Part I

**A**re you a homeschooling parent? You may not be aware of all the excellent resources available to you from the Missouri Department of Conservation. In fact, there is so much available, we had to turn this article into a two-part series! The August issue of *Making Tracks* will have even more information for homeschooling parents. Keep reading to learn what wonderful opportunities await you and your children!

### Nature Programs

Each of the three interpretive sites in the St. Louis region offers conservation programs for homeschooled students of all ages. You can sign up for the programs advertised monthly in *Making Tracks*, or reserve your own naturalist-led group program with your home school association. Contact any of the three sites (Rockwoods Reservation, Powder Valley CNC, or Busch Memorial CA) for information on scheduling group programs at that site.

### Backpacks

If you just want to take your children on a nature hike, but don't know where to start, the three sites also have kids' discovery backpacks available for checkout. To get a backpack, just ask at the front desk at any of the three sites upon your arrival. Backpacks are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and must be returned after two hours. There is no deposit required.

### Frontiers Program

If your children really love nature, they will fall in love with our Frontiers program. Frontiers is a program for ages 7 - 18 in which kids earn points for completing various projects: everything from identifying trees to performing community service. As points are earned, they can cash them in for incentive prizes. Kids can go through the program on their own, or join a Frontiers chapter. For information about starting your child in Frontiers or starting a new Frontiers chapter, call the Jefferson City MDC office at (573) 751-4115 ext. 3808.

There are many local Frontiers chapters your children can join. Rockwoods Reservation, Powder Valley CNC and the Busch Memorial CA all have Frontiers chapters that meet monthly. Call each individual site for more information. 🐾

## Upcoming Educator Workshops

### Missouri Stream Ecology

July 16 - 18

Rockwoods Reservation

Call David Bruns at (636) 458-2236 ext. 35

### Connecting Children's Books & Conservation

July 23 - 25

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Call Nancy Snider at (636) 441-4554 ext. 245

### Project WET, WILD & Learning Tree

July 30 - August 1

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

Call Liz Lyons at (314) 231-3803

the  
**Outdoor  
Teacher**

### The Outdoor Teacher Education Resource Center

Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(closed 11:00 a.m. - Noon)

1926 S. 12th St.

St. Louis, MO 63104

(314) 231-3803



**SOULARD OUTDOOR TEACHER  
RESOURCE CENTER**

For reservations, call (314) 231-3803

**2**

### Nature Journaling

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Educators) Are you looking for some new ideas for your students? Come explore the Soulard Outdoor Teacher Resource Center and try your hand at Nature Journaling! Space limited to 16 people. (Reservations begin June 17.)

## BUSCH RANGE

Hours for July 2002:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday-Monday

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday

Closed Wednesday & Thursday

For more information,  
call (636) 441-4554 ext. 251

## HENGES RANGE

Hours for July 2002:

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Closed Monday & Tuesday,  
Special Events & Holidays

For more information,  
call (636) 938-9548



***Making Tracks***  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[www.conservation.state.mo.us](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us)

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## ***Making Tracks***

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### **Interpretive Programs Supervisor, Rockwoods:**

Tom Meister

## **Volunteer Milestones**

### **Busch Conservation Area**

Lois Zvibleman.....800 hours  
Margaret McGregor..1100 hours  
Dick Baumann.....1500 hours  
Marv Staloch.....1600 hours

*Thanks for all your  
effort and help!*

### **Powder Valley Nature Center**

Charlie Anderson.3200 hours  
Alma Dulz.....2600 hours  
Cheryl Rafert.....300 hours  
Dick Wasson.....3400 hours  
Marjorie Yamada.2500 hours  
Dale Rees.....1800 hours  
Maury Frein.....100 hours  
Arta Kirk.....100 hours  
Bernadette Sieving.100 hours

### **Rockwoods Reservation**

Ron Box.....400 hours  
Robin Gavlick.....900 hours  
Glenda Myers.....1700 hours  
George Triplett.....2000 hours